belong to any particular service. There is no proposal for making such outsiders eligible for departmental tests.

Recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee

2514. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee that looked into regional imbalances; and

(b) the steps Government have taken as a follow up, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Dr. Nanjundappa Committee has made 95 recommendations to redress regional imbalances and identified 114 backward taluks in the State of Karnataka. The Committee has recommended a Rs. 16,000 crores special development plan for these backward taluks of which Rs. 9600 crores for Northern Karnataka and Rs. 6400 crores for Southern Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka have constituted a cabinet sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister to look into the recommendations and their implementation.

Proposal for increasing the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh

†2515. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from the ten districts of Madhya Pradesh having developrnent at par with the national level, there are backward districts also in the State that have acute shortage of infrastructure;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Planning Commission for increasing the number of districts; and

(c) if so, the action to be taken by Planning Commission thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Backward Regions Grant Fund has been announced for establishment in the current financial year 2005-06. The coverage of any

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

new districts can only be possible after finalization of the guidelines for this Fund.

Declaring Sundargarh as SEZ

2516. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Orissa MPs have met the Hon'ble Prime Minister with a request to undertake infrastructure development in the State of Orissa and for declaring Sundargarh as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ);

(b) whether the MPs have met other concerned Ministers and submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister and others for accelerated development of this backward State;

(c) if so, the details of the demands so made in the Memorandum; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Central Government to consider these demands with a view to help the cash strapped State to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament met the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23.07.2004 and submitted a memorandum to undertake infrastructure development in the State of Orissa. However, there is no mention of declaring Sundargarh as Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

(c) Some of the major demands made in the memorandum are listed in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(d) The Prime Minister's Office has sought comments on the above demands from the concerned Central Ministries.

Statement

Declaring Sundargarh as Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

List of demands made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament in their memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister

1. The State of Orissa should be declared as a Special Category State;